


OFFICE OF THE CHAIR
JOE A. MARTINEZ, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
DISTRICT 11

Memorandum

To: Honorable Commissioner Katy Sorenson

From: Joe A. Martinez, Chairman 

Date: July 25, 2006

Re: Miami Dade Housing Agency

I am in receipt of your memorandum requesting a Special Board of County Commission meeting to discuss issues pertaining to Affordable Housing and the recent revelations brought forth in the media. As you are aware, I sent a memorandum to the County Manager and copied the Mayor and the Board that depicts a conversation I had yesterday with Assistant HUD Secretary Orlando Cabrera and the County's Inspector General as it relates to the same issues that are being raised. To this end, USHUD will be aggressively investigating these allegations with their federal law enforcement partners and as you are aware the OIG has been auditing MDHA for over four months and the Miami Dade Police Department's Public Corruption Unit has also been conducting their own investigation. Furthermore, the Mayor has requested that the State Attorney also investigate the same.

I strongly believe that the involvement of the Board at this stage would impede the ability of the County Manager and all law enforcement partners to effectively investigate these allegations and ultimately bring those responsible to justice. It is for these reasons that I will not sign the form in support of a Special Meeting as I believe it could obstruct any and all investigations. I would urge you to let the criminal justice system take its course and direct the County Manager and the County Attorney to take whatever legal action necessary to recuperate the funding that has allegedly been misappropriated. As I stated yesterday, the OIG's report will be released in the very near future and my suggestion would be to wait until that has been issued so that we have something tangible to discuss in a public forum with the County Manager. We as elected representatives and citizens are outraged at what has recently been revealed and I too share your concerns as well as those raised by the Mayor. However, I cannot reiterate that the timing of a Special Meeting this week would not resolve anything but actually might hinder the ongoing investigations.

Memorandum to Commissioner Sorenson
Miami Dade Housing Agency
July 25, 2006
Page 2

Finally, I would like to commend the County Manager for proactively assigning Senior Advisor to the Manager Cynthia Curry to MDHA in an effort to get this agency back on track in assisting those in the community that are in desperate need of housing assistance.

If you should have any questions please call me at (305) 375-5511.

JM/jim

Cc: Honorable Mayor Carlos Alvarez
Honorable Vice-Chairman Dennis C. Moss and
Members of the Board of County Commissioners
George Burgess, County Manager
Christopher Mazella, Office of the Inspector General
Murray Greenberg, County Attorney